

COONAMESSETT POND (Falmouth)

General Information:

This 158-acre warm water pond has a maximum depth 34 feet and an average depth of 19 feet. Transparency is only fair, extending to 6.5 feet. The shoreline is 2.9 miles, about 25% of which is developed with cottages and year-round homes.

Access is provided by a town right of way off Sam Turner Road. The dirt ramp is suitable only for car top boats and canoes. Parking is available for approximately five cars in an adjacent picnic area. **There is a 10 horsepower limit on outboards** imposed by the town of Falmouth.

Fish Populations:

The last survey of the pond, conducted in 1979, recorded 12 species present: smallmouth bass, largemouth bass, chain pickerel, alewife, yellow perch, bluegill, white perch, killifish, brown bullhead, pumpkinseed, golden shiner and white sucker. White catfish and tessellated darters have also been reported. The sea-run alewives enter the pond via the Coonamassett River/Dutchman's Ditch.

Fishing:

Smallmouth and largemouth bass do well here. Growth rates are above the state average for these species. Unfortunately, the sampling indicated a general scarcity of bass 12 inches and larger, indicating heavy fishing pressure for these species. Chain pickerel provide good fishing with some sizable fish 20 inches and better. The sea-run alewives provide a good forage base.

Panfishing should be good here. Although the brown bullheads appeared quite scarce, there were plenty of fat bluegills and a large, underharvested, yellow perch population. The perch appeared to be of small average size, but there were ample numbers in the 7 to 8 inch range during the last survey, and the situation may have improved somewhat during the intervening years.

March 1993